Opening of separate office of Explosive Department

2974. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat for opening of a separate office of the Explosive Department at Alang Ship Recycling Yards in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the present status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ship breaking activities are presently not covered under the Petroleum Rules, 2002. Proposal of Government of Gujarat for opening a separate office of the Explosives Department at Alang Ship Recycling Yards in Gujarat can be examined and considered only after relevant provisions are made in the statute.

Export of banana to Gulf countries

† 2975. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have explored possibilities of export of Indian banana of Gulf countries:

(b) if so, the details thereof;and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) India is already exporting banana to Gulf countries. Details of exports of the fruit to major importing countries in the region are given below:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(Quantity: in metric tons, Value: Rupees in lakhs)

Country	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Quantity	Value	Quantit	Value	Quantit	Value
Bahrain	573.23	114.77	336.70	61.38	514.60	80.19
Kuwait	473.89	117.47	335.86	66.03	329.79	61.12
Oman	624.66	134.96	389.28	61.91	370.80	57.00
Saudi Arabia	658.78	145.85	746.41	159.99	796.42	138.64
U.A.E	3431.33	734.80	2067.14	463.44	2104.51	405.0

(Source: APEDA)

(c) Does not arise.

Export of diamonds

† 2976. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries to which diamonds are exported from India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the export of diamond has decreased during the last few years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor.and

(d) the measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ST \TE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. EI ANGOVAN): (a) Cut & polished diamonds are mainly exported to following c entries:—

HONGKONG	FRANCE	FINLAND	IRELAND
U.S.A	MALAYSIA	SRILANKA	NETHERLANDS
U.A.E.	S.AFRICA	KOREA	KUWAIT
BELGIUM	TAIWAN	MAURITIUS	DENMARK
ISRAEL	SPAIN	BAHRAIN	SWEDEN
SINGAPORE	CANADA	CHINA	AUSTRIA
JAPAN	NEW ZEALAND	RUSSIA	S.ARABIA
THAILAND	LEBANON	CYPRUS	CZECH REPU
SWITZERLAN	SOUTH KOREA	POLAND	BRAZIL
U.K.	TURKEY	TRINIDAD	UKRAIN
AUSTRALIA	ITALY	TUNISIA	FIJI
GERMANY	SWAZILAND	PORTUGAL	

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.